

# Egypt Said to Get More Russian-Piloted Squadrons

By WILLIAM BEECHER

Special to The New York Times

CAIRO, Aug. 31 — The Soviet Union is increasing the number of Russian-piloted jet fighter squadrons in Egypt, according to well-placed sources here.

To the four squadrons of MIG-21 fighters that were sent to Egypt early last year, the Russians are said to have recently added two MIG-21 squadrons and two SU-11 squadrons.

Diplomatic sources say that three more squadrons of the SU-11, considered one of the best fighter-bombers in the Soviet Air Force, are expected in the next few weeks.

Each squadron here consists of 12 to 16 aircraft.

## Reconnaissance Missions, Too

In addition, the Russians are reported to be flying four MIG-23 interceptors, primarily on high, fast reconnaissance missions over the west side of the Suez Canal, and 10 TU-16 reconnaissance planes over the United States Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

All of these aircraft, which operate from air bases stretching from Alexandria south 550 miles along the Nile Valley to Aswan, are said to be maintained by Russian mechanics and protected by Soviet-manned air defense missile and artillery crews.

Most analysts here stress that the Soviet air presence is defensive in nature. It was created last year in response to deep Israeli air strikes that were reported threatening to undermine the Nasser Government.

But some analysts are troubled by fears that the Soviet experience here is opening up an opportunity for Moscow to commit even larger numbers of fighters to battle if another round of war erupts between Egypt and Israel.

These analysts assert, for one thing, that Russian pilots are rotated through Soviet squadrons here every three to six months, which creates a substantial pool of airmen who have learned to work in desert conditions.

For another, the analysts

note that the number of MIG-21's and SU-7's that have been shipped to Egypt since last fall—more than 150—brings the Egyptian Air Force up to 550 combat jets, far in excess of the 330 jet trained pilots in its ranks.

Some here believe the Russians are placing aircraft here in case they need to use them in a crisis.

These analysts point out that in a war in this theater, the most direct route for the Soviet Union to shift MIG's and Sukhoi's would be through the Turkish-Iranian corridor to Iraq. But they say that the Israeli Air Force would doubtless attempt to frustrate this.

## Types of Jets Studied

Another factor concerns the types of aircraft now being flown by the Russians here. The SU-11 is regarded as an efficient interceptor, and even faster than the MIG-21. But, like the American F-4, it is also an excellent bomber, with about twice the operating radius of the MIG-21.

There have been reports that the Russians are flying one squadron of SU-7's. This plane was not designed for air defense and is a close-support attack plane. But the reports have not been confirmed.

Senior analysts stress that they are not saying that the Soviet Union is preparing for large direct involvement in any hostilities. "To the contrary," one diplomat said, "the consensus here is that Russia would try to avoid involvement, except for the air defense of interior, in order to minimize chances of a confrontation with United States."

"But it would be foolish to ignore the ominous option that the Russian Air Force presence is opening up."

## Estimate on Strength

Conservative estimates of the number of Soviet military advisers, technicians and air defense forces in Egypt range from 15,000 to 20,000.

More than half of this total, informants say, are assigned to the air defense mission, which

has headquarters at Heliopolis nearby.

The Soviet Union first concentrated on building SAM-2 and SAM-3 missile sites in the populous delta region from Cairo north to Alexandria. Surface-to-air missiles were then placed along the west bank of the Suez Canal to discourage Israeli air attacks, and to protect long-range artillery positions.

In the third phase, starting this spring, the Soviet Union is reportedly adding substantial numbers of air defense missiles systems in the area of Aswan, to protect the dam and nearby air bases.

There are 500 to 1,000 SAM-2's and SAM-3's deployed in Egypt, informants say. There are also reported to be two to three battalions of the more recent SAM-6's, with 27 missiles each.

The SAM-6 is of special interest because it is more mobile than the older SAM systems. One tracked vehicle carries three missiles designed to intercept attacking planes from as low as 100 feet above the ground to 50,000 feet above.

If large numbers of SAM-6's could be moved across the canal, it is noted, they could be used to defend supply bridges spanning the waterway as well as troops on the east bank.

Diplomats say that the Russians have turned over primary manning of SAM-3 batteries along the west bank of the canal to Egyptian troops over the last several months. But, they add, key Russian technicians remain with the Egyptian missile crews.

No question is raised, however, that Soviet personnel now operate, maintain and command the preponderance of equipment used for the air defense of Egypt.

The Soviet Union is said to be pressing a major effort to train Egyptians to take over many of the systems. But diplomats report that well over half the pilot candidates, fail to complete the course and that

under optimum conditions it takes three years to train a man to fly a jet and two years more to make him combat-ready.

The same process takes two years less in a Western air force.

Asked at a recent social function how long it would take to "Egyptianize" the air defense system, a senior Russian officer was quoted as answering: "At least 20 years—optimistically."

Mid. EAST

Approved For Release 2000/09/08 : CIA-RDP73B00296R000300030001-5  
THE WASHINGTON POST DATE 1 NOV 73 PAGE 29

***Israeli Report Two  
Mig-23s Over Sinai***

TEL AVIV, Nov. 6 (AP)—Two Soviet-built Mig-23 fighter aircraft overflew the Israeli-occupied Sinai Desert at a "high altitude and a great speed" today, the Israeli military command announced.

This was the first time the Israelis have reported Mig-23s—the most advanced aircraft in the Soviet arsenal—over Israeli-held territory. They flew a distance of about 100 miles over Sinai.

CAIRO, Dec. 10—Following are excerpts from a transcript of an interview between President Anwar el-Sadat of Egypt and C. L. Sulzberger.

Q. Do you think that there must be peace between Israel and the Arab world before diplomatic relations can be restored between Washington and Cairo?

A. Diplomatic relations with the U.S. is one thing and peace is another thing. I think the United States, as a big power, should be keen for peace in the area, if there are diplomatic relations or not. We have severed our diplomatic relations with the U.S. because of the complete alignment of the U.S. with Israel, before the aggression in 1967 and after the aggression. But I told Rogers when he was here we are ready, if the first-phase withdrawal of Israeli troops, according to my initiative, is completed, to restore diplomatic relations with the U.S. and create a new atmosphere in the whole area.

Q. Do you think that because of the refugee problem, India was justified in invading East Pakistan.

A. I am not for invading any country because of any cause at all. I have suffered from this here, and still am suffering from this, but it appears that the problem there has many dimensions. At the same time there is a problem in East Pakistan. I think that this is a domestic problem in East Pakistan.

I think the key of the whole problem is the problem in East Pakistan and the sort of autonomy they should have; but not a secession at all.

U.S. Position in '67 Noted  
Q. In terms of a war that continues closer to home, although there is no fighting at the moment, do you have a deadline by which time, according to your estimate, hostilities must resume, or new negotiations must start. You have often mentioned the year 1971.

A. If we return to your last question about India, we shall remark something very funny about the American position. They have voted for the cease-fire and everyone to return to his boundaries. In 1967, the position of America was completely contradictory to this and contradictory to all that the U.N. has taken as tradition since it started. Well, it is very funny, really, because the United States is now voting for a cease-fire and everyone to return back to his boundaries.

In the last eight months we have had contacts with



The New York Times  
President Anwar el-Sadat at his residence in Cairo.

the United States and my conclusion is this: I and your State Department and your Administration were playing hide-and-seek. They told me in the first place please put confidence in us. I said very well, I am quite ready to put confidence in you. Ultimately, we started. I took my initiative [on reopening the Suez Canal] upon the fourth of February, and they said very well, this is a marvelous thing, we shall be working on it and so on. Then it ended in the same position of the U.S. that was taken during the Johnson Administration in the U.N. contradictory to that they have taken regarding the India-Pakistan problem.

The U.S. wants Israel to use the occupation of my land and Arab land as an instrument of pressure to impose all that she wants. It ended like this. I am awfully sorry to say that I lost confidence completely in your Administration.

I am dead sure that there is something that has been cooked up between Johnson's Administration and Israel, and we shall know

about it in some years to come—like we have known about the aggression in 1956 after that, I am dead sure of this. But I am awfully sorry to say that I have come to this conclusion. The U.S. has come to the same starting point taken by the American Administration under Johnson: that Israel must have all, must impose whatever she wants I mean using the occupation of our land, the Arab land, as an instrument for this.

**"The Year of Decision"**

Q. Your statements at various times that 1971 must be the year of decision gave the implication that if nothing has happened by the end of this year, there would be a resumption of hostilities.

A. It will be the year of decision, sure. It will be the year of decision especially after what I told you, what we have found here and is confirmed today and was confirmed to me today by President Tito, who sent me a message telling me about his talks with President Nixon. Nineteen-seventy-one must be decisive because as I told you, after eight months of contacts with the U.S., they are still in the same position as Johnson's Administration alignment 100 per cent with Israel.

**U.S. Arms for Israel**

Q. According to the press, the U.S. has frozen for an indefinite period delivery of Phantom jets to Israel. Isn't this in some sense a restraint on the side of the U.S.?

A. To a certain extent it is. But at the same time you are giving Israel Skyhawks today instead of Phantoms, and then promising to give them Phantoms later. It is not a problem of giving Israel Phantoms. The problem for me is this: Is the U.S., as a big power, willing for a peaceful solution, an honorable solution or not? It has been proven to me that they are not willing to do this at all. As a big power, they are completely aligned with Israel. That is the problem for us.

It is not the Phantoms or Skyhawks or such. I don't want the U.S. to be on my side. I don't ask this. I just want the U.S. to be like a big power—responsible for world peace, to be just neutral, to see the facts as they are. That's what I want.

Q. In the sense that the Americans have held off delivering Phantoms for Israel, have the Russians withheld any equipment that you have desired?

A. Again, we come to the unjust comparison. Israel has in its depots the arms they will need for the next five

years. They are asking for another five years, beyond the five years that they have.

The U. S. knows quite clearly what we have here. You have your satellites going day and night all over the sky here, discovering everything through the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus. You can always know what we have. I am sure the U.S. knows what we have, and they are sure themselves. It cannot be compared at all with what is in the hands of Israel.

For years and years to come it will never be compared. Don't forget that we lost more than 80 per cent of our arms in 1967. Israel didn't only win the war but also won weapons.

And then the U.S. gives Israel more and more weapons, artillery, M-60 tanks, 170-mm. guns, Skyhawks, Phantoms. And you try to compare this with what the Soviet Union is giving to me. This is ridiculous, believe me. Your officials know such comparisons are ridiculous.

Q. Should there be hostilities, do you think the Soviet Union would do more than man and actively use the SAM missiles, which are defensive weapons, along the canal? Would they do anything else in the outbreak of hostilities?

A. First, I must correct something. And this has been confirmed to me by Mr. Rogers himself. There are no Soviet soldiers in the canal zone. No Soviet soldiers at the SAM's or any other place in the zone. I asked him this direct question and he said, "Yes, I know there are no Soviet soldiers or officers there. They are in the depth of the country at the missile sites, the SAM-3 sites."

I must correct this for you. Mr. Rogers knows this quite clearly. I told him, I have here officers and soldiers from the Red Army. Do you know where they are stationed? Are they on the canal?

He said, "no, they are not on the canal." I told him I was happy to hear this because they are at the SAM sites in the depth of the country. I am not asking anyone to fight my battle for me, neither Soviet soldiers nor American soldiers nor anyone.

Speaking of the Soviets, this is a theme that the Israelis are always putting before the whole world, and your people in particular. I know the Pentagon is 100 per cent with Israel. For example, they are mixing all this into global strategy and power politics of the two powers. On Dec. 24, 1970, in my first contact with Nixon I told him, in my first direct message: "Please, I do not want to be involved at all in global strategy and power politics and all that Mr. Kissinger is doing. Please, I don't want to be involved in all this. I just want to free my occupied territories."

Q. If you can get a settlement really started and finally achieved, would you then request the departure of all Soviet troops and military technicians from Egypt soil?

A. I have here, as I told Rogers, officers and soldiers from the Red Army at the missile sites and not at the canal. I told Mr. Rogers that I am paying their salaries in hard currency. The Soviet themselves, I must be fair, don't want their soldiers to stay here in Egypt, believe me. And every time I try to prolong their stay I must use all my efforts to convince them. You know quite well we are an independent country, and our main problem with you [the United States] was that we did not want to enter into the sphere of influence of anyone.

This was our problem with the late Mr. Dulles. We are an independent country and we shall always do what is necessary for our security. But we shall never sell out to anyone. For the second, I am not a diplomatic man of intrigue and so forth. I just want to be direct. I wrote and told him I am giving the Soviet fleet facilities in the Mediterranean because they

stood with us in our black days. And I shall continue to give the Soviet fleet these facilities. I have written this to Mr. Nixon.

At the same time, I shall be keeping advisers here for my army because war is a science now. It is not, as before, just bravery and so forth. It is a science. Every day there is something new. I also told President Nixon that I shall be keeping advisers in my country. To put it clearly, this is my position.

China Said to Favor Arabs  
Q. Do you think the admission of China to the U.N. and the opening of a dialogue between Peking and Washington can affect the Middle East situation?

A. I am sure that the stand of China is quite clear and adamant on the side of the Arab cause. More than this, as I told you, I don't want to be involved in power politics and global strategy of the big powers.

Q. What do you consider the future of Jordan in the light of the tragic assassination of Wasfi Tal?

A. I am sorry it happened here in my land. And I told King Hussein that I am sorry. I met his new Premier, as I said, here. I did not meet him. I would never have met him. I met Lawzi and told him to tell King Hussein: "Where does this policy lead you? You know that one of those who assassinated Tal drank his blood in front of everyone," I told Hussein: "What is inhumanity. Why should you drive the people to be inhuman?"

From my side I will have nothing to do with King Hussein before there is a settlement between him and the Palestinian commandos. If he reaches a solution, I am quite ready to have normal relations with him. If he does not, we shall be silent.

**Talk With Rogers Recalled**

Q. Because of the continued training program of Egyptian technicians and soldiers on missiles, Egyptian crews are taking over some of the SAM sites. If this is the case, I would assume that to some degree the so-called Soviet presence here, numerically, is diminishing? Is that correct?

A. When I met Rogers here, after two hours of talks he did not ask me about the Soviet presence. We were at ease, really. Believe me, I enjoyed it with all my heart. He was very charming. Well, I told him: "Why don't you ask the main question in the back of your mind about the Soviet presence here?" He told me: "Tell at ease. I thought it might be embarrassing."

And then I told him about the Soviet soldiers and officers we have at the SAM sites. And I told him about the Soviet fleet in the Mediterranean. About the Soviet fleet, I have nothing to do with you and you have nothing to do with me, because they have their fleet and you have your fleet. Their fleet was here in the Mediterranean before 1967 and will be here after 1971 and 1975 because they are a big power like you.

You are big powers. This has nothing to do with me. I have written to President Nixon telling him that I will be giving facilities to the Soviet fleet in my harbors on the Mediterranean because they stood with me in the black hours.

But regarding the Soviet soldiers and officers who are at the SAM sites, I told him, well, every time I need all the persuasiveness I have to get the Soviets to keep them here—because they don't want to. My Egyptian crews that they have trained I am using on the canal. On the canal there will be no Soviet soldiers.

Q. The Egyptian crews are merely enforcing your canal zone position? So it does not affect the Soviet total?

A. I cannot give you this. The term Soviet "presence" here is misunderstood by you. The Soviets themselves don't want their people to stay here at the SAM sites. I myself try to convince them to keep them here.

# 2,000 PAY TRIBUTE TO PREMIER MEIR

She Gets Report on Sale of  
\$204-Million Israel Bonds

By IRVING SPIEGEL

Two thousand leaders in Jewish civic, religious and communal life overflowed the grand ballroom of the Americana Hotel last night and paid tribute to Premier Golda Meir of Israel.

The event, sponsored by the Israel Bond Organization, marked the last public appearance by the 73-year-old Premier in her two-week visit to the United States.

As Jewish leaders credited Mrs. Meir with having laid the foundation for the Israel bond program and its success in the United States and the rest of the non-communist world, Samuel Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, announced that \$204,639,000 in Israel bonds had been sold in the first 11 months of this year.

\$250-Million Sought

He and Ira Gulden, president of the program, called for sales that would bring the total up to \$250-million by the end of the year. Abraham Feinberg, chairman of the organization's board of directors, said an increase in bond sales would help Israel to "fortify the economy against the stresses of the present crisis."

The bond agency, with headquarters here, owes its initiative to Mrs. Meir and former Premier David Ben-Gurion. It was in 1951 at a meeting in Jerusalem, that Mrs. Meir, then Minister of Labor, and Mr. Ben-Gurion proposed such a bond organization before American Jewish leaders.

At last night's dinner in honor of Mrs. Meir, the program opened with a colorful ceremony of the kindling of the first candle of the eight-day Hanukkah festival commemorating the victory of the Maccabees over Syrian tyranny more than 2,000 years ago.

After the traditional blessing of the candles was chanted by Cantor Josef Edelson of the East Midwood Jewish Center, Brooklyn, speakers lauded Mrs. Meir as the "spirit of the Maccabees."

More than 2,500 Hasidic Jews, most from the Crown Heights and Williamsburg sections of Brooklyn, demonstrated outside the Americana, protesting a law they say allows Orthodox girls to be drafted into the Israeli army.

Standing behind barricades that stretched from 52d to 54th Street and from Broadway to Seventh Avenue, the demonstrators waved banners and placards prior to Mrs. Meir's arrival.

One hundred demonstrators tried to surround Mrs. Meir when she arrived and a brief scuffle ensued. Mrs. Meir, already surrounded by her own bodyguards, made her way quickly into the building, and the police pushed the demonstrators away. There were no arrests.

An Israeli Government regulation exempts religious girls from the army but stipulates that they can serve in a civilian capacity in such areas as health and social services.

Meanwhile, Senator Henry M. Jackson, speaking at a din of the Zionist Organization of America, at the New York Hilton Hotel, asserted that Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat's threat to renew hostilities was "directly linked" to President Nixon's embargo on Phantom jets for Israel.

The Washington Democrat, a contender for the Presidential nomination, contended that the Nixon Administration "has closed its eyes to the dangerous impairment to Israel's margin of safety."

## Nader Worker Asserts Gulf Ousts Him as Station Owner

RIVERDALE, Md., Dec. 12 (AP)—A Riverdale service station owner who also works for Ralph Nader says he is being forced to give up his Gulf franchise because he is "too controversial."

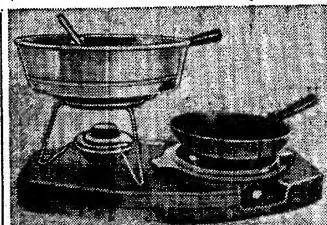
Pete Goss, 29 years old, owner of Pat's Gulf, said he had been notified by a Gulf zone representative that his franchise would not be renewed Feb. 1 because he was "rocking

Approved For Release 2000/09/08 : CIA-RDP73B00296R000300030001-5

## THE INSTANT GOURMET GIFT BY

### OUR FLAMING CREPE SET

A. Specially designed French 8-inch crepe pan with black Teflon® inside, red Teflon II exterior; set atop walnut cooking board with 8-position control electrical burner (that removes for easy cleaning). Also, a polished, stainless steel Blazer and Water pan set on stand with alcohol burner to flame crepes, plus sharp wooden spatula



to turn crepes. Complete recipe and instruction book provided. 44.00.



### OUR FRENCH OMELETTE

B. Nine-inch shallow French omelette pan with wooden handle, with black Teflon® interior, red Teflon® exterior. Atop the walnut cooking board; complete with wooden spatula and 10-inch chrome plate whisk, and book of instructions and recipes. 32.00.

### CONVERT-A-FLAME SWISS FONDUE

C. Convertible Teflon® lined fondue can be used with electrical element that features 8 different heat settings or with alcohol flame. On round wooden board with holes for fondue forks. Set also includes 1½-qt. stoneware pot for cheese fondues. Complete with six stainless steel color-keyed fondue forks, rack, stand and alcohol burner. Flame colored. 40.00.



LITTLE HOMERODIES HOLIDAY

Approved For Release 2000/09/08 : CIA-RDP73B00296R000300030001-5

## NEW SOVIET ARMS REPORTED IN EGYPT

U.S. Says Bombers Carry  
Air-to-Ground Missiles

By TERENCE SMITH

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 —

The Soviet Union has supplied Egypt with a number of medium bombers equipped with air-to-ground missiles during the last two weeks, State Department officials said today.

The weapons, which are code-named Kennel by the Western alliance, are the first air-to-ground missiles to be introduced into Egypt by the Soviet Union.

An unspecified number—but fewer than ten—of the twin-engine jet bombers were re-



The New York Times  
Charles W. Bray 3d, of State Department, confirmed report on missiles.

portedly detected by United States intelligence they were flown into Egypt by Soviet pilots during the last two weeks. Each bomber carries two missiles beneath its wings.

Confirming the detection today, Charles W. Bray 3d, the State Department spokesman, said that the development had forced him to qualify his statement on Monday that the Soviet Union had been demonstrating "restraint" in its recent shipments of military equipment to Egypt.

### Rogers Ordered Review

He said that the evaluation had been based on the amount of equipment delivered to Egypt before Nov. 1, the cutoff date for an intensive review of the Middle East arms situation ordered by Secretary of State William P. Rogers. Mr. Rogers also said in an interview published this week by United States News & World Report, that the Soviet Union had been acting with restraint in recent months.

The information on the new shipments, officials said, was confirmed only in the last few days.

Mr. Bray said that as a result of the evidence of additional shipments, the United States "obviously will be assessing the implications of this development" on the arms balance. In his published interview, Mr. Rogers said that the United States had concluded that as of Nov. 1 the military balance between Egypt and Israel had not shifted.

Mr. Bray declined today to say whether this evaluation had been changed as a result of the new information.

### Israeli Request for Planes

The United States has been using its contention that the balance of power in the area is stable as an explanation for its refusal to grant the Israeli request for additional supplies of Phantom and Skyhawk warplanes.

Israel has challenged the American assessment of the military situation and maintained that the Soviet Union has continued to ship a steady supply of military equipment to Egypt during the last few months. Maj. Gen. Itzhak Rabin, the Israeli Ambassador here, repeated this contention today after a meeting at the State Department with Joseph J. Sisco, the Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. He said that Israel was still actively pressing for a renewal of shipments of Phantoms and would "not take no for an answer."

The bombers, TU-16's code-named "Hanger," are a standard item in the Soviet inventory. A squadron of the planes, equipped primarily for reconnaissance and without the missiles, is based in Egypt to support the Soviet fleet in the Mediterranean. They frequently have been seen flying over and presumably photographing the ships of the United States Sixth Fleet.

### Mission Not Clear

United States officials said today that they were unsure of the mission of the new missile-equipped planes, but they suspect that they are meant to use against Israeli forces in the occupied Sinai Peninsula rather than in support of the Soviet fleet. All the planes bear Egyptian markings.

The Kennel and the Kelt—another missile that can be fitted to TU-16's—are designed primarily for use against ships but they can also be directed against land targets, officials said. Their range is said to be about 100 miles.

The Israelis have a more sophisticated air-to-ground missile in the American-supplied Shrike, which is fitted to the F-4 Phantoms.

# State Says Egypt Was Given More Planes by Soviet Union

By Marilyn Berger

Washington Post Staff Writer

State Department officials announced yesterday that they have evidence the Soviet Union has shipped more war planes to Egypt. Israeli sources said the planes are equipped to fire sophisticated air-to-surface missiles.

It was not immediately clear, however, whether Moscow actually provided the missiles, which are designed primarily for use against naval targets. If they are sent, it would mark the first time that any air-to-surface missiles were based in Egypt.

State Department officials said they were assessing the impact of the new deliveries, which involved "less than 10" Soviet subsonic TU-16 Badgers on the Middle East arms balance.

Only four days before, Secretary of State William P. Rogers had said the Russians were showing "restraint" in their arms deliveries to Egypt. U.S. officials said the planes were added to the Soviet inventory in Egypt, but carry Egyptian markings. Similar planes previously had been used by the Russians for reconnaissance in the Mediterranean, where the U.S. Sixth Fleet is based. But Israeli sources said they considered it more probable that the planes would be used by Egypt.

However they are used, informed sources said the planes could have an impact on the arms balance. The strategic situation in the region involves U.S., Soviet, Egyptian and Israeli capabilities. Should the new planes be used in a way that could limit the effectiveness of the Sixth

Fleet, U.S. capabilities would be affected. In Egyptian hands the planes could affect the Arab-Israeli balance.

Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin, who met yesterday with Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco to discuss Jerusalem's long-standing request to purchase additional jet fighters, contended that there never was a balance of power because the Arabs have always had more planes than Israel. "Israel has the right to get permission to purchase planes," he said, calling them necessary for the country's deterrent posture and defense capability.

"We have learned not to take 'no' for an answer," Rabin said. The United States has held up approval on the grounds that there has been a military balance of power in the region.

The State Department's announcement that it has found evidence of new Soviet deliveries was the third public statement this week relating to the arms balance in the Middle East. First there was the Rogers statement to U.S. News & World Report that "the Soviet Union in the last four or five months has operated with some restraint as far as shipments are concerned."

Then State Department spokesman Charles W. Bray, amplifying Rogers' remarks, said as of Nov. 1, when a special review growing out of last month's Soviet-Egyptian communique was completed, the arms balance had remained undisturbed. Bray indicated that, so long as Moscow showed restraint, Israel would not be allowed to make new Phantom purchases.

Yesterday's volunteered statement appeared to be an attempt to soften the impact of the earlier announcements, which enraged the Israelis.

The upshot of it all, according to a number of diplomatic sources, is that all sides seem unhappy at this point. These sources say the alternating signals show that the U.S. decision on arms will be based on political rather than military balance-of-power considerations.

U.S. officials indicated that they had some reason to believe the Oct. 13 Soviet-Egyptian communique in which the two countries agreed on "measures aimed at strengthening the military might of Egypt." They therefore discounted the suggestion that the planes were the first fruits of that agreement.

Egypt had TU-16s before the six-day war in 1967, but they were never used in combat. Some were destroyed on the ground and some were flown out of the battle area. Because Egyptian pilots know how to fly them, Israeli sources said the planes could be shifted over to the Egyptian air force even if they were initially earmarked for the Soviet fleet. Israeli sources say that during the past four months Egypt also has continued to receive Mig-21s.

Sisco, after meeting yesterday with Rabin, saw Rep. Bella Abzug (D-N.Y.) and a group of Jewish leaders, who urged that the United States lift its embargo on Phantoms for Israel. After the 40-minute meeting, Mrs. Abzug said Sisco emphasized that no final decision had been made on whether to approve the sale of Phantoms.



# Egypt Reportedly Gets New Air

By Michael Getler

Washington Post Staff Writer

There are strong indications that the Soviet Union has moved two new types of mobile air defense rockets — the SA-4 and SA-6 — into Egypt in recent weeks, according to Pentagon officials.

These new weapons, mounted on tank-like vehicles, are similar to the SA-2 and SA-3 surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) the Soviets emplaced in fixed positions around Cairo and along the Suez Canal last year to counter Israeli deep-penetration air raids.

In combination, the new missiles are designed to repel both low- and high-altitude raids. Because both missiles are mobile they would be harder for Israeli pilots to find and hit.

Reports of the new missiles coincide with a large-scale buildup of Soviet personnel and military equipment in Egypt since early this year. It includes some 200 additional fighter and attack planes, including about six of the hottest new Soviet jet — the Mig-23.

About 2,000 more Soviet personnel have been sent to Egypt in the past two months, raising the total to about 15,000, according to informed Washington sources.

U.S. officials say their response to this additional Soviet commitment remains restrained and that most of the new U.S. equipment currently being supplied to Israel is defensive in nature.

Officials say the Pentagon is continuing to give Israel electronic warning and jamming equipment for Israeli planes to ward off Soviet anti-aircraft rockets, Shrike anti-radar missiles and Hawk surface-to-air missiles.

But U.S. officials maintain there have been no new agreements to sell more F-4E Phantom fighter-bombers to the Israelis since last fall, when Washington agreed to provide 4 more planes — six of which

were replacements for Israeli losses — to augment the 50 originally granted by the Johnson administration.

U.S. policy is to replace planes lost in combat or training.

At that time, Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir had asked for 100 more A-4 Skyhawk attack planes to double the number Israel already had, plus 42 more Phantoms. Aside from the 24 planes last fall, the rest of the Israeli shopping list remains on file at the Pentagon.

## Phantoms Feared

Whatever else the United States gives the Israelis, it is the Phantoms that the Egyptians fear. Not only is the plane an excellent fighter—which the Israelis are modifying to make even better—but it can carry three times more bombs than anything the Soviets have given to Egypt.

Thus, despite the Soviet buildup, U.S. officials do not view the balance of power as having been tipped in favor of Egypt now. Israel needs continuing supplies of relatively unprovocative defensive equipment for the time being, Pentagon officials say. Undoubtedly, more planes would be provided if the situation should worsen.

Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird stressed in a news conference April 13 that the United States would not allow the arms balance to tip and that the administration hoped for a solution to the Middle East tension through "quiet diplomacy."

Recent press reports that the United States was in fact delivering an additional dozen Phantoms to Israel touched off a furor in the Arab press and led to Arab demands for U.S. explanations.

Yesterday, State Department spokesman Charles W. Bray said that Arab governments had been apprised of "inaccuracies either in fact or implication" in these reports.

## Visit by Rogers

U.S. officials were at pains to clarify the situation because of reports that anti-American demonstrations were being prepared in some Arab capitals that Secretary of State William P. Rogers is planning to visit in early May.

Before the recent buildup of Egyptian air strength, Egypt was estimated by informed sources here to have about 365 jet fighters and fighter-bombers.

Now, the figure reportedly totals slightly more than 550,

with about 300 of these believed to be Mig-21s, the standard Soviet fighter.

Normally, the Mig-21 would give the Phantom a hard time, but the Israelis have been successful in shooting it down. To improve even more the Phantoms superiority against the lighter, highly maneuverable Mig-21, the Israelis are said to be installing special slats on the leading edge of the Phantom's wings to make it turn more sharply.

Another 100 of the Egyptian planes are said to be Su-7 fighter-bombers, a plane with far less firepower than the Phantom.

Included in the new ship

# Defense Missiles

ments are also said to be about a squadron—perhaps a dozen planes—of the brand new Su-11 fighter-bomber, and the six or so Mig-23s. The remainder of the force is mostly older model Migs.

Although the Mig-23 can fly faster and higher than the Phantom, most Pentagon experts view the plane in the Middle East context primarily as a high-flying reconnaissance craft.

Deployment to Egypt of the new plane is said to be the first time it has left the Soviet Union by staying high, the Mig-23 can remain out of reach of any weapon the Israelis now have.

The plane is reputed to have a new radar that allows it to spot enemy planes below and guide in its air-to-air missiles for the kill. But some Pentagon experts say there is no hard evidence to confirm this capability, something which U.S. fighters will not have for a few more years.

To counter the Egyptian forces, the Israelis also have about 50 French-built Mirage jets, which are also excellent fighters, in addition to the Phantoms and Skyhawks. They also have about 20 French Mystere fighter bombers and about 150 older planes, for a total of about 400.

## NEW MIG A THREAT IN THE MIDEAST

Fighters Said to Give Soviet  
an Edge Over U.S. Fleet

By DREW MIDDLETON

Authoritative United States sources believe that the Soviet Union has shifted the strategic balance in the eastern Mediterranean in its favor by sending two new types of fighter planes to Egypt.

The addition of the MIG-23 and the Sukhoi 11 to the Soviet Air Force in Egypt, the sources assert, gives the Russians a measure of qualitative superiority in the air over American planes in the area. Both are said to be faster than the F-4 Phantom, the most advanced aircraft aboard the carriers of the Sixth Fleet, which is stationed in the Mediterranean.

The number of the new Soviet planes now in service in Egypt is not known, but one educated guess is that there are about 25 of each type. In addition, 90 MIG-21's have been added to the force of 150 previously deployed.

These aircraft are the basis for what is considered a serious challenge to the United States Navy's Mediterranean strategy.

The Sixth Fleet's freedom of operation in the eastern Mediterranean basin has rested on two assumptions, the first being that the fleet's Phantoms are superior to any planes possessed by the Russians or their allies in the Middle East.

The other assumption has been that the Sixth Allied Tactical Air Force of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, stationed in Turkey, would be strong enough, in conjunction with the planes of the Sixth Fleet, to protect NATO or friendly shipping in the eastern basin from air or sea attack.

Both assumptions are now believed to have been challenged by the introduction of the new Soviet planes and by the development in Egypt of radar warning and guidance systems to support Soviet air operations. Two squadrons of Soviet TU-16 medium bombers are also believed to have been stationed in Egypt.

The United States Navy had previously considered that the Phantoms on its two carriers in the Mediterranean gave it an edge over the Soviet naval squadron there. Until the advent of the MIG-23's, there were no Soviet aircraft in the area considered capable of protecting the guided-missile cruisers and destroyers of the Soviet squadron against the Phantom.

The MIG-23 reportedly can reach altitudes of 70,000 to 80,000 feet and fly at three times the speed of sound, or Mach 3. The Phantom's maximum speed is Mach 2.3, and the plane is capable of an altitude of more than 70,000 feet.

The MIG-23's are armed with missiles and a downward scanning radar. There is room in the fuselage for a recessed nuclear weapon.

The Sukhoi 11 has a speed estimated at Mach 2.5, also faster than the Phantom. It is armed with either radar-homing or infrared-homing missiles.

The plane is rated as much superior to the earlier Sukhoi 7. One hundred five of that model have been given to the Egyptian Air Force.



## The Washington Merry-Go-Round

THE WASHINGTON POST

Friday, June 4, 1971

D 15

## Kennedy Loyalists Occupy Key Spots

By Jack Anderson

The other Democratic presidential hopefuls are stewing over Sen. Ted Kennedy. For all his statements that he won't seek the presidency in 1972, they aren't fully convinced.

Not only has Kennedy passed Sen. Muskie as the first choice of Democratic regulars for the nomination, but Kennedy loyalists have quietly moved into key positions on the campaign staffs of the other aspirants.

Muskie's national political director, Jack English, came out of the Kennedy camp. Such Kennedy veterans as Mike Feldman, Frank Mankiewicz and Pierre Salinger are virtually taking over the campaign of Sen. George McGovern. And ex-Kennedy aides have infiltrated the campaign organizations of just about every other likely candidate.

This puts Kennedy in a unique position to manipulate the Democratic convention in case of a deadlock. The scrambling of the other contenders, because of their sheer number, could produce a standoff. In this event, Kennedy would have key men on each staff to prod the other candidate on to the Kennedy bandwagon.

We have concluded after some painstaking political probing that Kennedy didn't plant his men on the other staffs as a deliberate Machiavellian move. He told his loyal-

ists that he wouldn't run in 1972 and freed them to give their best service to the candidates of their choice.

Such honorable men as Feldman and Mankiewicz, for instance, have pledged to stick with McGovern as long as he feels he has any chance for the nomination.

But the scattered Kennedy camp followers, noting Ted's improved prospects, are looking for a change in signals. The possibility is increasing that they may be asked to hold themselves in readiness for a draft-Kennedy effort in case of a Democratic deadlock in 1972.

The new signal, if it comes will be a backroom nod from Steve Smith, the Kennedy brother-in-law who is now quarterbacking the clan.

## Mideast Intelligence

From intelligence sources in Cairo and Tel Aviv, my associate Joe Spear has collected these items:

• Egypt's recent overtures to the U.S., intelligence sources now believe, were part of President Sadat's strategy to consolidate his power. He threw out his rivals, most of them identified with pro-Soviet policies, and simultaneously held out an olive branch to the West. This brought Soviet President Podgorny hurrying to Cairo to repair Soviet-Egyptian relations. Sadat obligingly stiffened his attitude toward the West and de-

livered a tough note to the U.S. representative in Cairo, Donald Bergus, declaring that U.S. arms to Israel implicate the U.S. in the occupation of Arab territory. The pleased Podgorny reaffirmed Soviet support of Egypt, thus indirectly endorsing Sadat and strengthening his hold on the government.

• The Egyptian Army has doubled its strength since its disastrous 1967 defeat. Its arsenals not only contain the latest Soviet armaments but its troops have been trained to operate this sophisticated equipment. Soviet shipments are still arriving, largely by airlift at the Cairo west airport. The Soviet fleet also has access to Egyptian harbors and anchorages. A naval air squadron, based near Cairo, serves the Soviet fleet in the Mediterranean and Red seas. An estimated 15,000 Soviet advisers and technicians are now stationed in Egypt, including more than 4,000 missile experts and 200 pilots. Is the Egyptian army, therefore, now a match for the Israeli army? A top Israeli intelligence expert told Joe Spear: "We know the Egyptians can operate their new equipment. But can they extract the optimum performance from it? Can they hit the right targets at the right time? We believe this is where they are lacking."

• We were the first to report that Egypt is training an

amphibious force for an assault across the Suez Canal. Spear writes from Cairo, however, that we didn't tell the whole story. Actually, the entire Egyptian army is getting amphibious training. One unit, after another is put through the paces at mock-up sites and on a lake in the desert south of Cairo. They also train on the canal itself, practicing their crossings from the Egyptian side to an island. The Soviets, meanwhile, are shipping in motorized rafts.

• The invisible war, the unseen struggle for intelligence, is gaining in intensity. Egyptian spies have managed to infiltrate into Israel through the Arab communities. The Russians have slipped agents into Israel with immigrant Soviet Jews. The Russians also operate a spy ship, a Soviet *Pueblo*, about 60 miles off the Israeli coast. The ship is loaded with sophisticated electronic equipment capable of intercepting Israeli communications. Spear is persuaded, however, that the Israelis are winning the espionage war. Their spies in Egypt submit startlingly accurate reports from inside President Sadat's inner circle. Just a few days before Sadat's surprise purge of his rivals, an Israeli intelligence source told Spear: "Keep your eye on Sadat. He has staying power. He has got the army under control now."

© 1971, Bell-McClure-Pendicote, Inc.

Mid East

THE WASHINGTON

Approved For Release 2000/09/08 : CIA-RDP73B00296R000300030001-5

30 JUN 71

14

## Newest Soviet Jet Reported Seen in Egypt

Los Angeles Times

CAIRO, June 29 — A high-performance, Soviet Mig-23—the newest plane in Russia's air arsenal—has been spotted for the first time in the skies over Egypt.

The sighting took place a few days again in the vicinity of Cairo, highly reliable sources said, with the Soviet fighter flying at an altitude of about 2,500 feet.

Though a half-dozen Mig-23s have been reported to be based in Egypt with Russian pilots, this is the first actual confirmed sighting by a competent observer.

The Mig-23, which has not been deployed outside the Soviet Union before, flies at three times the speed of sound, and has an operating altitude of 80,000 feet plus.

Approved For Release 2000/09/08 : CIA-RDP73B00296R000300030001-5

# Egypt and Syria Said to Get More Planes From Soviet

**Stepped-Up Delivery of Jets and Troop Helicopters Reported in Washington**  
—Dayan Complains of U.S. Supply

By TAD SZULC

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 11—The Soviet Union has sharply stepped up, in recent months, deliveries of jet warplanes and troop-carrying helicopters to Egypt and Syria, according to United States intelligence specialists.

The relatively large deliveries to Syria were seen here as a significant development in the Middle East situation.

Detailed accounts of the new Soviet aircraft deliveries began reaching Washington early this month. Yesterday, the Israeli Defense Minister, Moshe Dayan, charged that Israeli forces did not have "a regular flow of arms because of pressure exerted by Egypt on the United States not to supply warplanes to Israel."

This reported United States denial of planes to Israel, combined with Washington's efforts to win Israeli acceptance of an agreement with Egypt for the reopening of the Suez Canal, appear to have soured American-Israeli relations.

## Shipments to Syria

According to United States intelligence sources, Syria has received from the Soviet Union in the last three months 21 all-weather MIG-21 fighters, probably of the latest model, 9 older-model MIG-17's, 5 Sukhoi-7 fighter-bombers and 22 MI-8 helicopters.

Experts here said these deliveries may have resulted from a Syrian-Soviet military pact signed last February. They noted the relatively high number of the most up-to-date MIG-21's and the first known delivery of the big MI-8 helicopters, which are designed to carry combat troops.

Intelligence sources reported that since last September, Egypt has received nearly 100 MIG-21's from the Soviet Union, including eight delivered in June. They said that this total compared with only 90 MIG-21's delivered to Egypt from the end of the Arab-Israeli war in 1967 to the middle of 1970.

Egypt, the intelligence experts said, also received 16 MI-8 helicopters last month for a total of about 80 since early 1970.

## Increase in Deliveries

United States officials said that the Soviet aircraft and helicopter deliveries to Egypt and Syria had risen markedly after the Mideast cease-fire of Aug. 7, 1970. Syria is not party to the 1967 war armistice nor to the 1970 truce.

The officials suggested that the deliveries began to be stepped up after the Soviet Union had completed installing SAM-2 and SAM-3 antiaircraft

Continued on Page 4, Column 3

—Donald C. Bergus, a senior American representative in Cairo, and Michael Serner, the State Department's specialist on Egyptian affairs—conferred this weekend in Cairo with Egyptian officials in an attempt to negotiate a formula for the canal reopening.

But Israel has made it clear that under the present circumstances she would not agree to pull back her troops from the waterway. As the United States has reportedly proposed. Officials here privately conceded that a deadlock had developed.

The Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, Joseph J. Sisco, had planned to fly to Jerusalem to discuss the American plan with Israeli officials. But the difficulties in Cairo, officials here said, may delay his trip indefinitely.

missile sites on the Egyptian side of the cease-fire zone.

The supply of the big helicopters to Syria and Egypt indicated to some intelligence specialists that the Soviet Union had decided to provide the countries with a capability for higher troop mobility in desert or mountain warfare.

The current speculation among officials here was that Moscow had been building Egyptian and Syrian air strength not only for preparedness but also for leverage against Israel in the negotiations conducted by the United States for an agreement to re-

## Pessimism on Reopening

A certain measure of pessimism has developed here in recent week over the chances of attaining an agreement on the reopening of the canal.

Two United States diplomats

# Israel Building Prototype For a Jet Fighter-Bomber

By WILLIAM BEECHER  
Special to The New York Times

TEL AVIV, Sept. 14—The Israelis are designing and putting together three prototypes of their own jet-fighter-bomber, according to well-placed sources here.

The models are under construction and the first operational version of the plane—dubbed the Super Mirage because it is derived from the family of French-built Mirages—is expected to reach the Israeli Air Force in small quantities in about two years. The engines to be used, principally an American one, are being purchased, according to knowledgeable sources, but most of the bodies are being built here.

The sources said that the first prototype would be tantamount to a Mirage 5, assembled here from parts spirited out of France after an embargo on delivery of 50 of the modern craft was imposed by President Charles de Gaulle in 1967.

The second prototype, which, it is said, has already been flown, will have an enlarged Mirage 5 body and the American J-79 jet engine that powers the F-4 Phantom. It will not contain advanced radar and other equipment necessary for efficient performance in bad weather and at night, the sources said, but bad weather is not common in the Middle East.

The third prototype, the sources said, is destined to contain Israeli-developed radar and other gear for all-weather performance.

Before the 1967 Arab-Israeli war Israeli engineers, working with the Marcel Dassault concern in France, had designed the Mirage 5, a longer-range version of the Mirage III, which has a combat radius of about 450 miles.

According to the sources, the Israelis are seeking to avoid unduly determining the campaign to acquire 100 more F-4 Phantoms and A-4 Skyhawks, both proven planes, from the United States on the argument that they are needed to balance the recent aircraft build-up in Egypt and to replace some of the 150 or more older jets in the Israeli force.

Advanced planes are only one of many projects for defensive weapons being pressed here, whatever the cost, to reduce dependence on the political vagaries of outside supply.

## Missile Being Exported

The projects include an automatic rifle said to be better than either the American M-16 or the Soviet AK-47, a tank of advanced design, a ground-to-ground missile with a range of more than 300 miles, a television-guided air-to-ground missile, gunboats, advanced anti-personnel radar and a modified barrage rocket said to be more accurate than the captured Soviet weapon from which it was modeled.

Another Israeli-developed weapon, the low-flying Gabriel ship-to-ship missile, is being exported. The first customer, the sources said, is Singapore, which plans to mount it on fast gunboats. Iran is among a number of countries exploring purchase. Prof. David Abir, a pioneer pilot and weapons engineer in Israel, declined in a recent interview to talk about specific weapons projects, but he was willing to discuss the history of Israeli efforts to develop self-reliance in weaponry, especially in aircraft.

For three years Professor Abir was chief of research and development for Israel Aircraft Industries. He has now returned to the aeronautical engineering

department of the world-famous Technion Institute at Haifa, which has played a role in United States research projects.

"From the moment of proclaiming our State of Israel in 1947," he said, "we faced a near-absolute weapons embargo. Except for some Czech rifles and old German Messerschmitts, we couldn't buy weapons which we needed so desperately. The question of self-sufficiency in arms became of paramount importance."

Israel, he continued, shopped the "junkyard" of the world, buying obsolete aircraft—the C-47 transport, the P-51 Mustang, the B-17 Flying Fortress and the British Spitfire. The air force, of necessity, developed an engineering department whose job it was to rebuild the planes and put them into fighting shape.

## Emigrés Were Major Help

Of major help in these and subsequent efforts, Professor Abir said, were a number of Jewish emigrés from Czarist Russia and Nazi Germany who, with British and Israeli engineers, gravitated to Technion and played an active cooperative role with the fledgling defense industry that continues to this day.

As to the future, Professor Abir, whose expertise is such that he was recruited to work on the British-French Concorde supersonic transport, said that self-reliance in weapons was a realizable policy within a reasonable period of time.

Another internationally known weapons engineer who prefers anonymity commented: "I think France did us a favor, in a way, when it clamped a total embargo on us. Until then we had a partnership with France on a wide range of weapons developments that resulted in a reluctance by the Government to go it alone."

"But since the French embargo the Government attitude has undergone a dramatic reversal. Before, when a new weapon was under consideration, officials asked how much more it might cost to do it here, interest rates and so forth. Now, although we're pressed for funds, the calculation is weighted wildly in favor of self-sufficiency. We don't want again to be faced with a political decision that suddenly turns off our major source of supply."

The automatic rifle, called the Storm rifle, the informants said, was designed by Uzi Gal, who developed the Uzi submachine gun. It is said to fire the .256-caliber bullet like the M-16.

## Five-Year Effort Foreseen

The sources were extremely reluctant to discuss the new tank, except to say that the Government had just decided to go ahead with a development program expected to take about five years.

The ground-to-ground missile, known as the Jordan, has been successfully test-fired, the sources said. At one time Dassault cooperated on the missile, which can carry either a conventional or a nuclear warhead (Israel has not tested a nuclear device but is believed

capable of doing so).

According to the sources, the air-to-ground missile, called Luz, has a range of 18 miles and has a TV camera in its nose cone, with a monitor screen in the launching aircraft.

The projected gunboats, the informants said, are larger than present missile boats but are not expected to carry missiles. They are being designed to operate out of the southern ports of Elath and Sharm el Sheik to keep the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea open to ships destined for Elath.

The antipersonnel radar is being designed primarily for use along Israel's long borders to provide warning of infiltration by guerrillas. The sources described it as excellent and much cheaper than similar devices developed by the United States.

Working with Soviet Katusha rockets captured during the 1967 war, Israeli weapons specialists are said to have improved the accuracy of the 240-mm mobile version to the point where a 12-rocket barrage would disperse over only about 150 yards, considered highly accurate for unguided rockets. The principal improvement, the sources said, is in the fins.

28 DEC 1971

Approved For Release 2000/09/08 : CIA-RDP73B00296R000300030001-5

## New Soviet fighter reported in Egypt

By Reuter

London

A new fighter, the fast, advanced Sukhoi SU-11, has been sent to Russian pilots serving in Egypt, according to reports reaching the prestigious International Institute for Strategic Studies.

A spokesman for the London-based institute said the reports indicated 30 to 70 of the delta-wing, single-seat interceptors were delivered to the Soviet Air Force in Egypt within recent months.

The planes, which are believed capable of flying at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times the speed of sound, are armed with air-to-air missiles, according to reports.

The SU-11 was first seen in public at an air show in Russia in 1967. It has two versions, a conventional one known to NATO as "Flagon-A" and a short takeoff and landing (STOL) version, known as "Flagon-B."

The spokesman said that if the reports are true it would be the first appearance of the SU-11 in Egypt, where Russian pilots have been flying about 150 MIG fighters, including the MIG-23.

According to military estimates published in September, the Egyptian Air Force had an air combat strength of 523 fighters and bombers, including about 100 aircraft delivered by the Soviet Union last year.

26 JUL 1971

## MIDDLE EAST

## Flybys and Superspies

Israel celebrated the 23rd birthday of its potent air force last week with flowery words and impressive flybys. The words came from the air force commander, General Mordechai Hod: "We breathe the air of the summit of Mt. Hermon, our wings trace the tranquil waters of Mirfatz Shlomo [Sharm el Sheikh] and the reaches of Sinai, and our jets embrace the skies of Jerusalem, which has become a united whole." Then at Hod's order came phalanxes of Phantoms, Skyhawks, Mirages, Mystères and Ouragans, of Sikorsky helicopters and Noratlas, Dakota and Stratocruiser transports, and even of gnatlike Cessnas.

The only disappointing aspect of the display for Israelis was that it did not include more of the swift, dangerous U.S.-built Phantoms, the backbone of the air force. Israel has so far received approximately 85 Phantoms and lost nine in sorties over Sinai or in accidents. Last year it requested another 40 or so to keep its military power on a par with that of the Arabs.

The Administration has postponed a decision, partly because it sees the Mid-

dle East power balance differently from the Israelis, partly because it considers the Phantoms a useful lever for moving Israel into a Suez Canal agreement. The Phantom decision is still, so to speak, up in the air, but Jerusalem hopes for some progress when Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco makes a scheduled visit this week. "We don't expect Sisco to come flying over in a flotilla of Phantoms," says a government official. "But we do hope that he will come with words of encouragement."

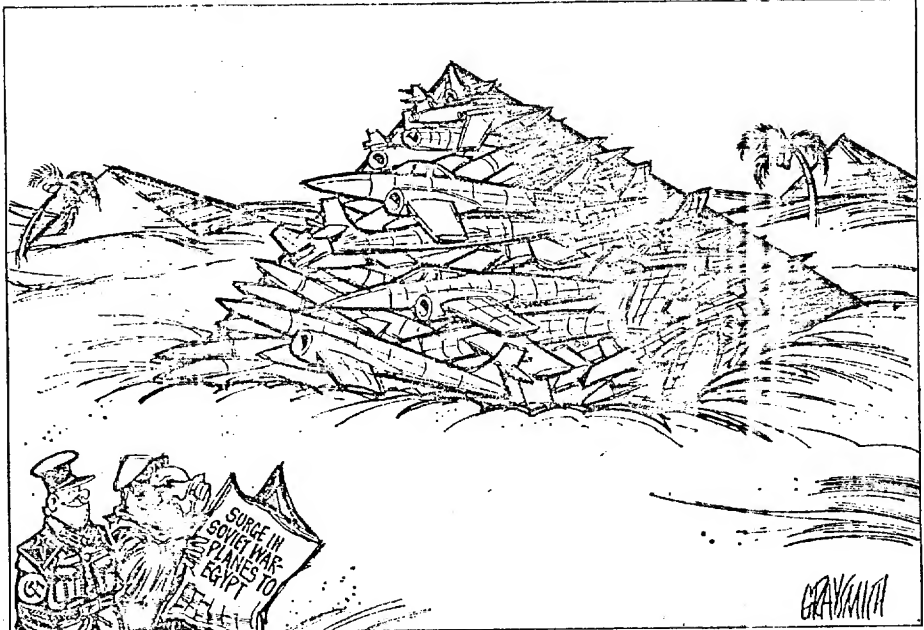
**Arab Buildup.** On the eve of Sisco's trip, pro-Israel politicians in the U.S. have been spreading alarmist reports about a significant buildup of Arab airpower. The Egyptians, according to Washington estimates, have received 100 MIGs since last September, in addition to 80 Mi-8 troop-carrying helicopters. Syria has got 30 MIGs, five Sukhoi-7 fighter-bombers and 22 helicopters. All together, there are now nearly 600 So-

points discussed when Helms conferred with officials of Ha'Mossad, or "the Institution," the Israeli equivalent of the CIA:

- ▶ Soviet-flown MIG-23s, which can fly at 80,000 ft., an altitude that Phantoms cannot reach, are conducting intelligence missions out of Egyptian bases.
- ▶ Two electronics-crammed Russian "listening ships" have been stationed about 80 miles off the Israeli coast.
- ▶ Soviet radar installed on the ground in Egypt can monitor air routes over Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Jordan.
- ▶ Hundreds of Soviet intelligence experts are at work in Middle East evaluation centers in Cairo and Alexandria.
- ▶ Soviet agents are visiting Israel in increased numbers in the guise of tourists, journalists, European businessmen and even immigrating Jews.

The Russians are gathering information more openly than they once did; they are ready to risk more in order to

GRAYSMITH—SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE



"A fine job of camouflage, comrade . . ."

viet-built planes in the area, some flown by Soviet pilots.

The Administration argues that Soviet plane figures look more formidable than they are. U.S. officials point out that while the Arabs have about a 6-to-1 advantage over Israel in planes, the Israelis have the edge in qualified pilots and able ground crews. Egypt lost so many pilots in the war of attrition that after Russian resupply it had four times as many jets as men to fly them. The Israelis fret nonetheless about the growing number of aircraft in Arab countries, and there are signs that they will not discuss a Suez agreement until there is some redressing of the balance.

**Soviet Activity.** If the weapons buildup is worrisome to Israel, the U.S. has shown concern over a marked buildup of Soviet intelligence activities in the Middle East. It was partly to investigate those activities that the CIA Director Richard Helms recently visited Israel. Some

learn more. Helms and his hosts apparently came to no firm conclusions about the objectives of the current Soviet operation. But they did reach some decisions, including an Israeli agreement to provide facilities for U-2s and SR-71 U.S. spy planes.

It will be no surprise if Sisco, fresh from conferences with the National Security Council, makes less headway on the diplomatic front. His object is to probe for possible areas in which U.S.-sponsored discussions on reopening the Suez Canal can be continued.

In Cairo last week, State Department Middle East Specialists Donald C. Bergus and Michael Sterner received assurances from President Anwar Sadat that Egypt still wants the canal reopened—but on its own terms. Sisco is likely to hear much the same thing in Jerusalem. At present the Israelis are convinced that the talks are dead and that visits like Sisco's are merely cosmetics for a corpse.